

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /056 W

-----072035Z 100089 /75

R 071514Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5514

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1805

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SL

SUBJ: SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS TAKE THEIR SEATS

REF: (A) FREETOWN 1519, (B) FREETOWN 1732

1. SIERRA LEONE'S THIRD PARLIAMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE WAS OPENED FORMALLY BY PRESIDENT STEVENS, JUNE 3, AND IN ATTENDANCE TO BE SWORN IN WERE 12 OF THE 15 ELECTED SLPP MEMBERS. THE REMAINING THREE SLPP PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE REPORTED BY SALIA JUSU-SHERIFF, WHO IS APPARENTLY FLOOR LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION TO BE IN DETENTION AND UNABLE TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY.

2. PRECEEDING THE PRESIDENT'S STATE ADDRESS WAS A SPIRITED BUT FORE-DOOMED EFFORT BY THE SLPP TO PREVENT ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY SPEAKER ON THE GROUNDS THAT PARLIAMENT WAS NOT PROPERLY CONSTITUTED SINCE ELECTIONS HAVE NOT TAKEN PLACE IN BO DISTRICT. FOLLOWING THE RULING BY THE SPEAKER THAT THE ELECTION COULD PROCEED, WILLIAM N.S. CONTEH OF BOMBALI DISTRICT WAS ELECTED DEPUTY SPEAKER.

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3. STEVENS' TWO HOUR ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT TOUCHED ALL MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND SET THE STAGE FOR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON A ONE-PARTY FORM OF GOVERNMENT FOR SIERRA LEONE. STEVENS SAID HE ALWAYS FELT A ONE-PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM SHOULD RESULT FROM EVOLUTION AND THAT THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS HAD BEEN COMPLETED FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES. HE REITERATED THAT THE SLPP HAD NO LEADER AND "THIS LACK OF LEADERSHIP

AGGRAVATED AND ACCENTUATED THE VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF THE SO-CALLED SLPP". HE CLAIMED THERE WAS NO LEADER WITH WHOM THE RULING APC COULD COMMUNICATE "EVEN THOUGH MANY ATTEMPTS TO DO SO WERE MADE". "PUTTING ALL THESE FACTS TOGETHER I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE TIME HAS NOW ARRIVED FOR THIS COUNTRY TO ADOPT A ONE-PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM IF IT IS NOT TO DISINTEGRATE INTO TRIBAL FACTIONS, WITH ALL THAT WOULD IMPLY".

4. IN OTHER PARTS OF HIS SPEECH HE THANKED USAID FOR FUNDING A STORM AND SEWER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF FREETOWN AND NOTED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO BRING AN END TO MINORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.

5. PARLIAMENT REOPENS JUNE 7 AND DEBATE ON A ONE-PARTY GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO DOMINATE THIS SESSION.
NORTH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING PROCEEDINGS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977FREETO01805
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770203-0069
Format: TEL
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770684/aaaacvmf.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 49a4bf83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SL, SLPP
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